

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

10/027,721

Confirmation No. 9785

Applicant

Katagiri et al.

Filed

20 December 2001

TC/A.U.

3676

Examiner

John B. Walsh

Docket No.

2933KA-5

Customer No.:

22442

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA VA 22313-1450 ON OCTOBER 17, 2003.

AMENDMENT

Sir,

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed 17 July 2003 (Paper No. 9). This response is filed within the three month shortened statutory period. Applicants therefore believe this response is timely filed and no fees are due. In the event any fees are due, please debit Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

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GROUP 3600

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: